



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 June 2007

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AGRI 185

NOTE

from : Secretariat
to : Delegations
Subject : Cross-compliance

Delegations will find attached in Annex a common proposal from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia concerning the implementation of cross-compliance in the new Member States.

This will be submitted to the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 11 and 12 June 2007 as an AOB item.

**COMMON PROPOSAL OF BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, CYPRUS,
LITHUANIA, LATVIA, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA
CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CROSS-COMPLIANCE
IN THE NEW MEMBER STATES**

The policy objective of cross-compliance is to impose extensive rules on farmers so that the society's expectations are legitimately satisfied. Having complied with those rules the farmer is granted the full amount of Community aid.

Farmers from the new Member States shall be treated no less favourably when meeting the expectations of the Community's general public interest.

Further to this, during the discussion upon the draft Council Conclusions (doc. 7991/07) the aforementioned Member States supported the idea of a transitional period for introducing the cross-compliance provisions for the new Member States but invited the Council and the Commission to make the length of this period conditional upon the amount of direct payments received by farmers in the new Member States, thus allowing for the full scope of the cross-compliance provisions be implemented no sooner than the amount of direct payments reaches the EU-15 level.

The concept of such a balanced approach was welcomed by many Delegations during the latest meetings of the Council and of the Special Committee on Agriculture.

In order to find a balanced solution acceptable for all, i.e. both for the Commission and for the Member States, above mentioned Member States propose that the implementation of cross compliance starts in 2009, but with the 6-year-step introducing period according to the following schedule:

Annex III.A of Reg. 1782/2003 from year 2009 (2012 for Bulgaria and Romania);

Annex III.B of Reg. 1782/2003 from year 2011 (2014 for Bulgaria and Romania);

Annex III.C of Reg. 1782/2003 from year 2013 (2016 for Bulgaria and Romania).